



Network Working Area

Network for Communicable Disease Control in Southern Europe and Mediterranean Countries

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Questionnaire about Institutions partners

SECTION 1

Official name¹

¹ Provide the name of the organization such as the Ministry of Health or Public Health Institute to which your unit belongs.

Hrvatski zavod za javno zdravstvo; Croatian National Institute of Public Health

Unit²

² Department/Unit within the institutions involved in the Network, in charge of the surveillance of communicable diseases (especially in early warning and response system, vaccine preventable diseases and zoonotic infections).

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SECTION 2

Mandate³ as described in the regulation enacting your organization

A maximum of 200 words is allowed

The Croatian National Institute of Public Health (CNIPH) is a supreme and central national public health institution, acting within the national health care system, coordinated by the Ministry of health

³ *The mandate defines the main functions of an organization and derives from outside and above an organization.*

SECTION 3

Describe your unit position within the organizational chart (organigram)⁴ of the larger institution you belong to. A maximum of 200 words is allowed.

⁴ *An organizational chart for a whole organization shows the units who make up such organization and the relationships between them. Relationships refer to authority and communication lines.*

Upload a file for further informations:

SECTION 4

Describe your unit's organizational chart (organigram)⁵

A maximum of 200 words is allowed

⁵ *An organizational chart for a unit shows the managers and main professional roles who make up such unit and the relationships between them.*

SECTION 5

Illustrate the main roles and activities carried out by your organization in the field of infectious diseases prevention and control, specifically in the following areas:

a) Surveillance of infectious diseases

A maximum of 200 words is allowed

b) Epidemic Intelligence⁶

A maximum of 200 words is allowed

⁶ *Please, see: C. Paquet, D. Coulombier, R. Kaiser, M. Ciotti, Epidemic Intelligence: a new framework for strengthening disease surveillance in Europe in Eurosurveillance, 2006; 11 (12): 212–4.*

c) Monitoring of services delivery, including immunization of migrant populations

A maximum of 200 words is allowed

and social welfare. Its task is to care for health of inhabitants and others occurring in the Republic of Croatia, by monitoring, preventing and controlling communicable and other, non-communicable and chronic mass diseases. This institution acts also as the national CDC.

Organigram of the CNIPH –Beside the central management of the Institute the following main departments or services are operating within the Institute: – Epidemiology service – Microbiology service – Social medicine and public health service – Health ecology (environmental health) service – Center for addictions (dependences) prevention.

Organigram of the epidemiology service – The Epidemiology service acts as the central operative part of national CDC The service is divided in two main parts communicable disease epidemiology service and chronic mass disease epidemiology service The Epidemiology of communicable disease service is structured as follows: – Department for vaccination and national program of vaccination – Department for tuberculosis – Department or HI/AIDS surveillance – Department for information network system and early warning – Department for epidemic intelligence and media scan – Department for zoonoses – Department for education and research. the Epidemiology service and its experts had been nominated and act as national IHR focal point, as well as EU EWRS focal point.

Surveillance of communicable diseases in Croatia is organized all over the country, basing on obligation of reporting of all communicable disease cases and all outbreaks. The communicable disease surveillance network is spreading from a field level i.e. primary health care, private or public (GP, Hospitals, etc.) to a nearest field epidemiology service, and further through regional level (epidemiology units of county institutes of public health) to the national level: Croatian national institute of public health Epidemiology service. Following notification of disease case or outbreak, a prompt intervention i.e. control measures are implemented, starting already at the field level and being supported by intermediary or national level epidemiology service, as appropriate. Usually cca 90 % all interventions are accomplished at the field or county epidemiology service level, while other are maintained by national level (mostly rare or particularly dangerous disease outbreaks, large outbreaks, cross border events, etc.) However, all interventions at the field level are coordinated and guided by the central experts consiliary team of the Epidemiology service of the Croatian national institute of public health, on 24/7 duty i.e. non stop.

Epidemic intelligence – Monitoring of epidemiological situation and important events is assured by regular national wide notification system. In addition constant scanning of all media and other sources, rumors etc is established at the field, regional and national level. Additionally an obligation for all public services including media to report information of health importance to the epidemiology services is set by national document Program of health care measures.

Monitoring of service delivery – Monitoring vaccinal coverage The epidemiology service of the Croatian National Institute of Public Health is constantly monitoring effects of national mass program of immunization, receiving regular reports from all doctors performing vaccination in the country (more

than 1000). This includes all persons scheduled for vaccination, migrants too. –Monitoring antirabic preventive treatment of persons exposed to rabies through regular reports of all antirabic outpost clinics in the country established in county institutes of public health –Monitoring of fulfillment of obligatory systematic testing of all pregnant women on HbsAg+ carriership and subsequent protection against hepatitis B of their newborns, through regular annual reports of all maternity wards in the country –Monitoring overall epidemiology service and other service response in cases of communicable diseases scheduled by the law, through daily contacts with all primary doctors in the country and with all epidemiology units (also by periodic reports on work accomplished) in the country, as well as in cases of outbreaks; at the same time Epidemiology unit in the CNIPH is offering necessary guidance and expert advices.

Zoonotic diseases are included into the list of diseases of interest for the whole country (see above) so they are regularly monitored and controlled. The Epidemiology unit of the CNIPH had conducted numerous research projects on zoonoses important for Croatia: tularemia, Q fever, hanta-viral fever (HFRS), tetanus, TBE, leptospirosis, etc.

Diagnostic services – Within Croatian national institute of public health majority of national reference microbiological human laboratories (18) are situated, as well as super-expertise environmental laboratories for water, food, etc. all of them acting together with the Epidemiology service as the Reference centre for epidemiology of the Ministry of health, and as the main operative part of the CNIPH role of national CDC.

Emergency preparedness – The Epidemiology services are organized to be constantly able to respond immediately to all emergencies by 24/7 duties, and other means. At the national level the central Generic plan for epidemic emergencies was compiled in 2006, approved by the Ministry of health.

Training and education – The Epidemiology service of the CNIPH is also an educational center for epidemiology, primarily for specialistic education of medical doctors as well as for post graduate and undergraduate education. This role is accomplished through lectures at the medical faculty, through continuous education of doctors in practice and especially through a 7-month internship of doctors specializing in epidemiology. Beside that education in epidemiology is provided also for doctors specializing in microbiology, school medicine, public health medicine, etc.

Research – Beside research on zoonoses (see above) the Epidemiology service of the CNIPH has experiences in research of vaccination, vaccines and vaccine preventable diseases, influenza, legionellosis, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, endemic nephropathy, enteral viral and bacterial infections, etc.

Procedure of alerting – Any alert about an event of health importance occurring anywhere in the country should be noticed by local epidemiology service (notification from the primary health care, public notification, reconnaissance activities, etc.). All relevant information is to be passed immediately, orally (by phone or similar) to a senior epidemiologist on duty at the Croatian National Institute of Public Health (24/7) . From this spot the information is, if necessary, passed to governmental level (Ministry of health and social welfare) or internationally (IHR, EWRS etc). In most instances the response is started immediately already at the field level where experienced and qualified epidemiologist team is located (113 field epidemiology units – outposts of county institutes of public health– in the country), guided as appropriate from the national level. If necessary, intervention from regional or national level is always

d) Zoonosis
A maximum of 200 words is allowed

e) Diagnostic services
A maximum of 200 words is allowed

f) Emergency preparedness
A maximum of 200 words is allowed

g) Training and education
A maximum of 200 words is allowed

h) Research
A maximum of 200 words is allowed

SECTION 6

Describe the alert procedure adopted by your organization and the conditions to which applies paying special attention to infectious diseases.

A maximum of 200 words is allowed

possible and ready. Starting from the first information about some health event, depending on its nature (infective, non-infective, trauma, etc.), basic network of epidemiology services can engage other necessary experts, toxicologists, environmental health specialists, clinicians, microbiologists, public security staff, media etc. This mode of acting is scheduled in the main national generic epidemic emergency response plan.

SECTION 7

Provide a brief account of your unit's professional staff mix⁷

⁷ The categories are mutually exclusive: please, assign only one profile to each unit's professional staff.

Staff mix	Senior	Junior	Total
Epidemiologists	3	3	6
Infectious diseases specialists	0	0	0
Statisticians	2	0	2
Microbiologists	0	0	0
Biologists	0	0	0
Laboratory technicians	0	0	0
Information Technology Managers	0	0	0
Others (please, specify) <i>epidemiology technicians/nurses</i>	6	0	6

SECTION 8

Describe the content of and time span covered by the databases related to infectious diseases your organization manages.

Please select the number of databases you want to describe, insert their descriptions, and leave the drop-down menu with the number of databases you have compiled.

Number of databases:

9

Data-base	Content	Time span	Brief description
communicable diseases case	notifiable diseases case reports	several decades	80 diseases listed by the national Communicable disease law, all EU notifiable diseases included
malaria cases	reported malaria cases	several decades	
tuberculosis cases	reported tuberculosis cases	several decades	
legionellosis cases	reported legionellosis cases	several decades	
vaccination coverage	reports of all vaccinators and filed epidemiology services	several decades	diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, morbilli, rubella, parotitis ep., Haemophilus influenzae b, hepatitis B, polio
cases of adverse reactions to vaccination	reported cases of adverse events after vaccination	two decades	
HIV/AIDS cases	reported HIV/AIDS cases	since 1986	
		several decades	

reports on postexposure antirabic treatment

reports of all antirabic stations on postexposure antirabic treatment

reports on testing pregnant women on HBsAg carriership

reports of all maternity wards

since 1999

SECTION 9

Exemplify the main publications produced by your organization during the last three years.

Please select the number of publications you want to describe, insert their descriptions, and leave the drop-down menu with the number of publications you have compiled.

Number of newsletters:

0

Number of bulletins:

1

Title

Frequency (Yearly, monthly, etc.)

Web link (if available)

Epidemiološki vjesnik /Epidemiological news, in Croatian and English, Editor: Epidemiology service of the CNIPH

monthly

www.hzjz.hr

Number of reports:

2

Title

Frequency (Yearly, monthly, etc.)

Web link (if available)

Zarazne bolesti u Hrvatskoj (Annual review of communicable diseases in Croatia) in Croatian; Editor Epidemiology service, CNIPH

yearly

Hrvatski zdravstveno statistiki ljetopis (Croatian health service yearbook) with chapters: Communicable diseases in Croatia, Vaccination coverage, HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis; (English summary and table titles) Editor: Croatian National Institute of Public Health

yearly

www.hzjz.hr

Number of research:

0

Others:

0

SECTION 10

Identify your main collaborating partners in each area.

Number of partners:

0

Staff

Staff members mentioned are employed just in the Service (unit) for epidemiology of communicable disease of the Croatian National Institute of Public Health. But in our routine work other staff of the Institute is regularly participating: microbiologists, toxicologists, laboratory technicians, computer/programming experts, etc. Some additional information regarding our staff is in the following paragraph:

Epidemiologists: in Croatia they are medical doctors specialized in epidemiology (3 years of specialization after medical faculty diploma).

Infective disease specialists: no such profile employed in the Epidemiology service, as doctors epidemiologists (see above) are trained in infective disease epidemiology, surveillance and control.

Microbiologists: no microbiologists in the Epidemiology unit, but there are more than 15 public health microbiologists (doctors specialized in microbiology) employed in the Institute (CNIPH), as well as several biologists (microbiologists, molecular biologists).

Laboratory technicians: no such staff in Epidemiology unit, but several dozens of laboratory technicians work in numerous public health laboratories in the Institute (CNIPH).

Databases

The Epidemiology service of the CNIPH is monitoring constantly cca 80 communicable diseases defined by the national Communicable disease law, which cover all diseases and respective case definitions scheduled by the EU legislature.

The systematic monitoring of communicable diseases in Croatia has a long tradition, since 1874. Up to now, so most databases cover several decades.

Beside the main data base on communicable diseases of national interest.

Separate data bases are maintained also for:

- influenza cases
- malaria cases
- HIV/AIDS cases
- TB cases
- vaccinal coverage report data base
- rabies preventive treatment data base
- adverse effects of vaccination data base
- reports on testing pregnant women on HBsAg carriership and immunologic protection of newborns of HBsAg positive mothers
- legionellosis cases
- and other

Partners

Partners of the Epidemiology service at work on communicable disease surveillance and response in Croatia are located in entire health care system i.e. in the primary health care, consiliary outpatient care units and hospitals, participating in reporting and responding to communicable disease cases, which include proper treatment, isolation, counseling, etc). In practical operative communicable diseases control work, the main partners of epidemiologists are microbiologists of the CNIPH and county institutes of public health and infectious disease specialist-doctors in hospitals, etc.

Publications

Only main, periodic publications are mentioned. There is a lot of other various publications as well as a great number of articles published in Croatia and abroad.

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